

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes October 24, 2011

Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Susan Austin	Amy Axel	
Niki Biggs	Councilman Guthrie	
Bob Coen	Mike Mathias	
Helene Dubay	Steve Sopel	
Reverend Ellison		
Keith England		
Laurie Kwiedorowicz		
Kathy Halliday		
Ben Mayforth		
Tracy Moore		
Marc Weinstein		
Andrea Wiley		

- I. Chairperson Marc Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the June 27, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Membership:
 1. The following Commissioner terms will expire soon: Michael Mathias on February 10, 2012 and Helene Dubay on March 5, 2012. The Membership Committee will contact them about their interest in reappointment.
 2. Student Representative Ben Mayforth's term will expire at the end of the school year.
 - B. Accessibility:
 1. Fair Housing Services: The Department of Community Services' Fair Housing Services contract for 2012 has not yet been awarded.
 2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.
 3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests for waiver have been received.

4. Ramps Program: No new information.
 5. Operation Access:
 - Sharon Grzanka reported that a representative of the City of Houston, Texas contacted her about the Commission's Disabled Parking Awareness Campaign. Press releases on the campaign issued by the Department of Community Services and the Sheriff's Office were shared with the representative. The City of Houston is interested in modeling a campaign after Harford County's.
 - Sharon added that in conversation, Monica Worrell of the Sheriff's Office indicated that the Disabled Parking Enforcement Campaign could be repeated again this holiday shopping season. Sharon will follow up.
- C. Education Committee: Helene Dubay reported that:
1. The Expo for Transitioning Youth will be held on **Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street, Bel Air.**
 2. The planning committee is finalizing workshop topics to include: Social Security and other benefits; Division of Rehabilitation Services and Workforce Technology Center; Maryland Workforce Exchange; Self-Advocacy; Estate Planning; High-demand Occupation Training (HOT) programs at Harford Community College, etc.
 3. The next meeting of the Expo Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Web page: Bob Coen announced that the Alzheimer Association is under the "Spotlight on Services" feature on the Commission's webpage. In addition to outlining their services, the spotlight also promoted their recent Memory Walk fundraiser. From now on, agencies will be invited to promote their fundraising/upcoming events on the "Spotlight".
 2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz reported the there is "buzz" about possible new taxes or fees, but nothing confirmed in terms of proposed legislation.
 3. Voice of the Disability Community:
 - Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: Sharon attended the October meeting.

The next meeting will be held on December 3, 2011.
Location to be announced.

- Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: Independence Now has announced that the Youth Leadership Forum will be held in the summer of 2012. The application is available at <http://www.innow.org/home/youth-leadership-forum/apply> . Date to be determined.
- Jurisdictional Planning Group: A meeting was held on September 1, 2011. Joanne Knapp and Elizabeth Webster of the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security discussed a project to assess what functional needs support services exist and what gaps remain to be addressed in Baltimore City, City of Annapolis, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. A focus group for individuals with functional needs and service providers will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library.

E. Employment Committee: Niki Biggs reported that:

1. The annual Employment Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs. The luncheon was a great success, with several Commission members in attendance. The PowerPoint, with photos of those recognized, will be posted on the Commission's web page.
2. The Committee is sponsoring a free training on the Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Aberdeen Workforce Center, 34 North Philadelphia Blvd., Aberdeen. The training is designed for job developers and other staff of service provider agencies who work with jobseekers with disabilities. No pre-registration necessary.
3. The next meeting of the committee will be announced.

F. Transportation Committee: The Transportation Committee met on October 21, 2011. The committee was the joint recipient, along with Harford Transit LINK, of the Transportation Association of Maryland's Human Services Partnership Award. In addition to its outreach efforts to increase ridership on the New Freedom Extender Service, the committee is researching transportation options for individuals working at Chimes/Alliance custodial jobs at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Keith England described the jobs and how many individuals are arranging transportation to work. The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon reported that Mike Mathias and Andrea Wiley will represent the Commission on the Community Development Review Board (CDRB). The CDRB reviews applications for Harford County Grant-in-Aid and makes funding recommendations. Sharon thanked Laurie Kwiedorowicz for many years of service on the CDRB.
- V. Old Business:
 - A. Commission Picnic: A great time was had by all, but Reverend Ellison was missed as chief griller. Susan Austin filled in admirably.
 - B. Commission on Disabilities FY2011 Annual Report: The Commission approved the FY 2011 Annual Report. A photo was taken for the Annual Report cover and the Commission web page.
- VI. New Business: There was none.
- VII. Public Comment and Announcements:
 - A. Keith England announced that he was recognized after completing a year at his job at APG.
 - B. Ben Mayforth announced that Bel Air High is hosting Rachel's Challenge, a program inspired by one of the Columbine High victims. The program addresses bullying and civility. Rachel's uncle will be the keynote speaker. The program will be held this evening at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.
 - C. Susan Austin announced that Harford County Special Olympics is selling Holiday Wreaths to benefit Special Olympics. Additional information is in the Employment Luncheon program, which was distributed.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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